

should not be allowed to grow in pure stands, but should have incense cedar or other trees from the second group planted amongst them. Ponderosa pine does very well when in a mixed stand with incense cedar or white fir (individual trees of *P. ponderosa*, which have from youth been in exposed positions, are able to grow long low branches and protect themselves; but this does not apply in pure stands).

Man thus has an opportunity to make the pine forests more resistant to bark beetle epidemics, by adding sun-tolerant species to young stands of sun-sensitive trees. This work can be related to the establishment of fire protection strips, especially along roadways, since shade producing trees also reduce the fire hazard.

Of course such problems can not be solved by the entomologists alone, since botanical and economic matters are also involved. However, it seems clear that there are possibilities in this subject, and future generations will have much to thank us for if we can reduce both bark beetle and fire hazards.

A NEW SYNONYM IN XENORHIPIS

(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Dr. Jan Obenberger in Vestnik Svazek VI-VII, Za Rok (1938-1939:338) described a new species of *Xenorhipis* under the name *X. vejdotskyi*. The type series of *X. vejdotskyi* consisted of six specimens. Of the two in Obenberger's collection, one, which he acquired by purchase, is labeled from Connecticut, U.S.A., and the other, bearing no locality label "but most probably from the same collector" was sent to him in an exchange by the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris, bearing a label "*Xenorhipis Brendeli* LeConte." This second specimen belonged in turn to the Meyer-Darcis and Kerremans collections. The other four specimens of the series upon which he based his new species are designated thus: "I have seen, in Paris, in the collection of Kerremans, still some four specimens of the same new species." Dr. Obenberger had no specimens which he considered to be *X. brendeli* and based his comparative notes upon the description given by LeConte.

He contrasted certain characters of *X. brendeli* and his *X. vej-*

dovskyi and I have arranged these dichotomies in the forms of a table for ease of perusal.

<i>X. brendeli</i> LeConte	<i>X. vejovskyi</i> Obenberger
1. Body dull black with a brassy tinge.	Body black, without any brassy tinge.
2. Head convex with a broad medial furrow.	Head convex without any medial furrow.
3. Thorax (pronotum) quadrate with the angles acute, slightly channeled and marked with a strong transverse impression just before the middle.	Thorax (pronotum) transverse, having the greatest width on the basal third, rather strongly and obliquely attenuate to the base, very feebly to the anterior angles, feebly and equally convex, without any impressions.
4. Elytra dull black, with a brassy tinge, ornamented with a large pale spot which extends nearly one-third the length and fades insensibly into the black ground color.	Elytra pale yellow, with a long triangular scutellar macula, extending from the base nearly to the basal third, of the same black, piceous colour as the prothorax.
5. Sernum marked on each side with a large hairy depression.	Without any distinct hairy depression on sternum.
6. Length 5 mm.	Length 6 mm.
7. Illinois.	Connecticut.

Reviewing these characters, I was struck by the apparent tautological nature of the fourth dichotomy and the possible variability of some of the other characters. But by the time I decided I decided to pursue the matter farther it was impossible, because of international conditions, to carry on correspondence with Dr. Obenberger. Fortunately, however, I was able to secure the loan of two of the specimens in the Paris museum which were mentioned by Dr. Obenberger, through the kind cooperation of Mr. A. Descarpentries of that institution. These specimens are both from Crafton, Pennsylvania, Klages collector. They are labeled "*Brendeli* LeConte" and formed part of the Kerremans collection, being so labeled.

There are no other specimens of *Xenorhipis* in the Paris museum and there can be no doubt that these specimens are the ones alluded to by Dr. Obenberger. In the light of this, I feel justified in considering these two specimens as putative paratypes of Obenberger's species.

Having studied the male type of *X. brendeli* LeConte in the

Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge in 1942, and having seen an almost identical male in the Boston Museum collection, I was a little unnerved at the sight of the two putative paratypes, both males of *X. vejdoskyi*, which looked quite different from the LeConte type, as well as different from the published figures in Knull, Horn, and Kerremans. However, I checked both paratypes against my table of dichotomies with the following results:

1. One of the paratypes is uniformly dark above, vaguely purplish on the elytra, a little brassy on the head and pronotum with no definite elytral markings whatever, merely a slight lightening on the side margin at about the middle of the elytra and a vague lessening of intensity of color where the elytral markings usually occur. These lighter areas can only be discerned by turning the specimen around and tilting it in a favorable light under fair magnification. To the unaided eye the elytra appear uniformly dark. The other paratype is colored about like Dr. Obenberger's figure of *X. vejdoskyi*. This indicates that the color of the elytra is an unstable character here since two of the putative paratypes are so differently marked. Dr. Obenberger did not mention this difference in color between two of the "specimens of the same new species."

2. The dark paratype has the body black with a slightly brassy tinge whereas the light paratype has the body shining black with no brassy tinge, indicating that this character is variable here, and by this token, valueless.

3. The dark paratype has a distinct median impression on the head whereas the light one has the front nearly evenly rounded with only a very slight impression, indicating that this character also is variable and useless.

4. The dark paratype has the pronotum medio-longitudinally narrowly impressed and transversely broadly medially depressed whereas the light paratype has neither impression, indicating that this character is variable (as, indeed it is also among certain other *Anthaxites* as well).

5. The dark paratype has the sides of the pronotum broadly arcuate from the anterior angles to the first fourth, then parallel to the posterior angles which are acute, whereas the light paratype has the pronotal margins about as figured by Dr. Obenberger for *X. vejdoskyi*, that is broadly arcuate from the anterior angle to the posterior fourth, then angling in more strongly to the posterior angles which are obtuse, indicating that this, too, is a variable character, and of no value here.

6. The pronotum of the dark paratype is noticeably less strongly transverse than that of the light one but is not truly quadrate, indicating still another variable and unusable character.

7. The length of the dark paratype is 5.3 mm. while the light one measures 6 mm. in length, another variable character.

8. Both paratypes were fastened with generous amounts of glue to little cards and the sterna were unobservable. I therefore carefully removed the specimens from their cards and found, in direct contradiction to Dr. Obenberger's statement, that the sterna of both paratypes were strongly modified at both sides by large conspicuous oblong oval hairy depressions.

Having an opportunity to visit the Museum of Comparative

Zoology again in 1950 I re-examined the LeConte type of *X. brendeli* and confirmed my previous impression that the two paratypes of *X. vej dovskyi* differ in general appearance at least as much between themselves as from the type of *X. brendeli*.

I believe that I have demonstrated that all of the characters, except one, which are said by *Dr. Obenberger* to separate *X. vej dovskyi* from *X. brendeli* are quite variable and useless in specific differentiation by pointing out the great differences which exist between two of the specimens which he said belong to his new species and which I feel justified in considering as paratypic. The expected character, a sexual one, is the possession of a large hairy depression on each side of the sternum, characteristic of *X. brendeli* and the absence of which was supposed to distinguish *X. vej dovskyi*. The condition of this important character is found to be exactly the same in specimens which *Dr. Obenberger* designated as representative of his new species as in the type of *X. brendeli*. *Xenorhipis vej dovskyi* *Obenberger* should be listed as a synonym of *Xenorhipis brendeli* *LeConte*.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON THE TAXONOMY OF SOME APHID SPECIES

(Aphididae)

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Contarini (1845) lists 46 species of the genus *Aphis* as belonging to the family *Psyllidae*. Of these, seven species are incorrectly accredited to *Latreille*. One species, *Aphis nivea*, may or may not be correctly associated with the name of *Latreille*, but I have not been able to locate a species by that name in the works of *Latreille* which I have examined, neither have I been able to locate a species by the name of *Aphis nivea* in the literature. It may be regarded for the time being as a *nomen nudum*. The remaining species listed by *Contarini* are either correctly or incorrectly associated with the name of *Fabricius*.

In the February issue of "Entomological News," published in 1917, *G. O. Shinji* described as new *Myzocallis essigi*. The type slide of this species, now in the collection of *E. O. Essig*, contains a number of species representing several genera. Through the kindness of *Professor Essig* I have had an opportunity to study this slide. *Essig* (1917:324) regards the species named for him as a